

Abiding Wrath

John 3:36



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FOCAL Read Together John 3:36 he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The disciples of John the Baptist were concerned. Their Master was the one of whom Isaiah prophesied, saying:

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

He was Messiah's Announcer, the greatest prophet who ever lived. Yet an increasing number of disciples were leaving John's side to go and follow this Man from Nazareth. They were concerned. Hadn't John himself baptized this Man? Wasn't John concerned that his followers were dwindling and going to be with this Man. John - in essence - told his disciples:

"I'm not upset - it is as it should be. Jesus must increase, but I must decrease. I was born to announce Jesus and to speak the Words of God. But I am of the earth, and Jesus is from Heaven. *The Father loves the Son and has put all things into His hand.*"

It's all about Jesus. Following this statement John - God's Messenger preparing the Way of the Lord - says "**....He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.**" John had previously told his disciples that Jesus is

John 1:29 the Lamb of God, which taketh away

the sin of the world.

The Father has put *everything* into the Son's hand. What does this mean? Jesus said:

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

God has put *everything* into the Son's hand. There are **no other ways to be saved by by faith in the Son**. Hell is gaping wide, it's mouth ready to swallow many in our day and age, but men nonetheless merrily go along in their apathetic ways. Many people have begun to believe - though it is nowhere taught in Scripture - that **God so LOVES (Present Tense) the world**. They believe that - since God is love and that He LOVES the world that everyone will - as long as they're good - go to Heaven. The Bible doesn't teach that. Jesus never taught that. The Bible said that:

John 3:16 For God so LOVED (Past Tense) the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God LOVED the world. He placed all of the love He has into Jesus Christ. Let's put it this way. I have a bank account that I keep money in. When I want to withdraw money from the bank I can't just go to any old bank. I have to go to MY bank where MY money is kept. If I go to a competitor's bank I can't withdraw money from my account. I have to go to MY bank. God has deposited His love in the Bank of Jesus Christ. If you want to make a

withdrawal then you must go there. You cannot go to the Bank of Good Works, the Bank of Denominations, the Bank of Prestige, or any other bank to get to the Love of God. His love is stored in the Bank of Christ. If you have not believed in Jesus then God's wrath abides on you. He is not happy with you, He is not satisfied with your life, He is not your Father, and you will not get into His Home which is Heaven.

You must go to the First and Only Bank of Jesus Christ if you want to be right with God. Otherwise **His wrath abides on you**.

May the Holy Spirit speak to your heart this very day.

1. Who Stands Guilty Before God?

FOCAL John 3:36 he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Who is guilty in the eyes of God? Our text starts out with "**He that believeth not**". Who is "**he**"?

The Bible makes it clear that "**he**" is not an angel. Jesus said that hell was "**prepared for the devil and his angels**" (Matthew 25:41).

Angels were created by God in Heaven for Heaven, but when they rebelled against Heaven the Lord cast them out of Heaven. Jesus "**took upon Himself**" not the form of the angels, but the Bible says

Philippians 2:7-8 {Jesus} made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: [8] And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The angels stand guilty before God and cannot be saved. Unbelieving mankind stands guilty before God because he could be saved but will not believe in Jesus. The Bible says:

John 1:10-11 {Jesus} was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. [11] He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

He made the world and all that is in it. He came to this world with the express purpose of saving people from their sins. His very Name declared His purpose, for the Angel Gabriel said to Joseph:

Matthew 1:21 ... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

The Name "Jesus" means "God our Savior With Us".

He came to seek and to save those who are lost. Yet many are guilty before God and

FOCAL John 3:36 ... believeth not the Son

What are the unbelievers guilty of? We err when we say that a man will go to hell because he is a homosexual, or a liar, or a thief, or a murderer, or a whore monger. These people will be in hell - oh yes they will. The Bible says:

Revelation 22:15 For {outside of Heaven} are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

These people who do these things will never enter God's Heaven. But the reason these people do these things - the first cause - is not the sexual sin, the murdering sin, the blasphemous sin. No, dear friends. What does our text say?

FOCAL John 3:36 he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The wrath of God abides forever on the unbeliever. Because a person refuses to believe in Christ the wrath of God abides on him.

What does the unbelieving *moral man*, the *fault finding woman*, the *self righteous denominational leader*, the *ritually saved people* have in common? They trust in themselves, not in Jesus.

Look yonder at the *moral man*. He says, "My morality is my shield from the flames of hell. I am a good person, better than my neighbor. I will go into God's

Heaven apart from Christ". God the Father says, "No you shall not! I have given all judgment into My Son's hand, and **My wrath abides on YOU while YOU do not believe**. Look over there at that woman. She came to Church once and, rather than looking to Christ, looked for fault in the congregation. **"Why, I am a better Christian than those so called Christians. If anybody is going to go to Heaven it's going to be me."** God the Father says, "No you shall not! I have given all judgment into My Son's hand, and **My wrath abides on YOU while YOU do not believe**. Another fine dressed man - a leader in his denomination - says **"I have worked long and strong for the good of the Church. I have memorized catechisms and creeds and I have a Faith and Message that I hold dear. I know that I am secure and will go to Heaven"**. God the Father says, "No you shall not! I have given all judgment into My Son's hand, and **My wrath abides on YOU while YOU do not believe**. Look once more and see the Catholic, a member of a Church Universal. Weekly that old grandmother kneels and takes a wafer on her tongue. Another old gentleman takes holy communion at a so called Church of Christ where the ritual is said to cleanse him. Both of these old people depart this life and stand before God, saying **"We have kept holy sacraments and rituals, and have done these things all our lives. Surely we belong in Your Heaven"**. God the Father says, "No you shall not! I have given all judgment into My Son's hand, and **My wrath abides on YOU while YOU do not believe**.

2. Why Is The Offense Of Unbelief So Terrible?

FOCAL John 3:36 he that **believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

Psalms 7:11 ... **God is angry with the wicked every day.**

Why is God angry with the unbeliever? Why does His **wrath abide on him?** Because our God is holy, He is righteous, He is pure, and He is without sin.

From the time that we could walk we have violated God's Law and violated God's nature.

The parent tells the child "no, you cannot have a cookie before supper, you'll ruin your appetite". The parent leaves the room and the child - barely able to walk - heads toward the cookie bowl. If he can get to it he will get a cookie regardless as to the parent's command. You may smile at that, but God does not smile. His fifth commandment is **"honor thy father and thy mother"**. God had a reason for the command those we giggle and look the other way. And so it goes. From the time we can walk our feet lead us to wrong. From the time we can talk our tongue speaks evil and blasphemies.

Then God reaches out in love, saying

"You have broken My Laws. You have offended Me. I could have destroyed you and, wiping the earth clean, started anew. Yet I chose to forgive you. But I cannot forgive you unless your violations against Me

have been judged. I am holy - forever holy - and every violation against My holiness is eternal. My only command to you is that you *believe in My Son*. He took your place of judgment. Trust Him, follow Him, love Him, obey Him. Accept Him and Him alone as payment for your sin."

The Holy Spirit has called the unbeliever week after week, but still they reject the Son. This is the chiefest of all sins.

Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came ...

John 16:8-9 {The Spirit} will reprove the world of sin, ... [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Here is the root of sin, the unbelieving heart. The Father said:

Matthew 3:17 ... This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Father is well pleased in the Son, but the unbeliever is well pleased in his own life. "I do not need Jesus, for I am sufficient unto myself". The Father went even further, saying:

Matthew 17:5 ... This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Hear Jesus - listen to His Voice. I have committed all judgment into His hands. Heed Him. Hear Him. Yet the

unbeliever says, "I would rather hear myself, or a son of Adam, but never the Voice of God".

Like Adam his forefather the unbeliever heeds the serpent Satan rather than the Saving Son.

Is it any wonder that **God's wrath abides** on the unbeliever. Here is Jesus, hanging between two thieves. Here He is, on a hill called Golgotha, outside of the City of Jerusalem, a place that He should - by all rights - be ruling the world from. There He hangs. Isaiah foresaw Jesus, writing:

Isaiah 53:12 ... He hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Look at that Cross! Look at the bright red Blood of salvation running down its posts. Listen as they gather round about that Cross to mock Him. "If You be the Son of God bring Yourself down from that place". He could not. He could not. **The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)** so that He could pay for our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For {God the Father} hath made {Jesus} to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

He that was sinless was **made sin for us**. Yet the unbeliever mocks. "Give us a sign that You are Messiah". For over *two thousand years people from all*

walks of life have given their lives to Jesus and have been saved. They have believed on Him and have - just as He promised - received life. Yet the unbeliever - hearing the Word of the Lord through His Church and His Pastors:

Revelation 22:17 Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

Yet they mock. Yet they find reasons to disbelieve. Yet they say by their very actions that **God is a liar:**

1 John 5:10 **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.**

The unbeliever is an enemy to God. **The wrath of God abides on him.** He is not one day an enemy, but *this very day*.

He is not looking toward a day when God's wrath will abide on him, but *this very day it abides*. Do not deceive yourselves if you are unbelievers. What is being passed around Christendom today is that *God hates the sin but loves the sinner*. Do not believe it. The Bible says **God is angry with the wicked every day**. The Bible says **he that believeth not the Son hath not life, BUT THE WRATH of God ABIDETH ON HIM**. Not on "his works", but "on Him". Or, as Jesus told Nicodemus:

John 3:18 **He that believeth on {Jesus} is not**

condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

What condemns a person? Failure to believe in Jesus. **His wrath abides right now. His condemnation abides right now.** If you walk away from this place unbelieving and meet your death there will be no second chance, for you were given ample opportunity.

I am uncomfortable when even one person is angry at me. I would be much more bothered to know that The Lord God Almighty was filled with wrath for me.

He is not, for I believe in Jesus. What about you?

3. Do Not Believe The False Prophets

There are a number of false prophets - wolves in sheep's clothing - who have deceived many. They have taken one text, "**God is love**", and by twisting Scripture out of context has many believing that we are all brothers and sisters, and all ultimately headed toward Heaven. Dear friends,

The best thing to do with false prophets is to **reject them and eject them.**

You would all be better off if you'd turn off that one eyed idiot maker we call a *television* and go to Church more. The phrase "**God is love**" was never addressed to

unbelievers. It was addressed to *believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as a test of their salvation*. The Bible says:

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. [8] He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. [9] In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. [10] Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

That text has *absolutely nothing to do with the unbeliever*. The unbeliever can only find love from God by trusting in the Son of God. Period. For those who do not the Lord has promised only one thing upon their deaths. He said:

Revelation 20:11-12 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

His wrath abides on you, unbeliever. **You shall not see life**. You shall not enter Heaven, but shall enter that

black lake that burns forevermore.

The Puritan Whitfield, when he preached, would cry out "Oh, the wrath to come! Oh, the wrath to come!".

He would cry it out over and over until emotion choked his voice and he could speak no more.

The Believer in Christ leaves this life - never seeing death - and goes to be with the Lord Jesus Whom he loves. The unbeliever in Christ never sees life, but experiences death *forever*. Why is that? Because the Lord has vowed to the believer:

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: [28] And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. [30] I and my Father are one.

that he or she shall *never* leave the hand of the Father and the Son. Again the Bible says "**the Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand**" (John 3:35). If you believe on Jesus you belong to Jesus. If you belong to Jesus you will always **be in His hand**. But what has God promised - vowed - for the unbeliever? "**To whom swore He that they should not enter in to His rest, but to them that believed not?**" (Hebrews 3:18). The Lord has promised to the

unbeliever "you shall not enter into My rest. He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." As C.H. Spurgeon has said:

"The reason why the wrath of God abides on an unbeliever is partly because all other sins remain on him.

There is no sin that shall damn the man who believes, and nothing can save the man who will not believe. God removes all sin the moment we believe; but while we believe not, fresh cords fasten upon our transgressions."

Come oh guilty one just as you are, and rest upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. Take Him to be your Lord and Savior forever. Trust Him. May God the Holy Spirit lead you to say "**Lord, I believe. Help Thou mine unbelief**".



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

